

From: Alex Melli
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/3/02 12:15am
Subject: My Opinion

To who it may concern:

Regarding the Anti-Trust case against Microsoft Corp., and the pending penalty phase, I would like to register my opinion.

I do not agree with the penalties being assessed.

The proposed penalties I've heard, involving Microsoft contributing loads of computers and software to schools is not appropriate for several reasons:

- It is creating future users (i.e. customers) for Microsoft. It's like letting a drug company give a vitamin to schoolchildren, making them dependent on it and creating a future customer.
- This is actually a bonus for Microsoft, giving them more inroads to the education market!
- The penalty is a minor inconvenience at worst. For that corporation, it is the equivalent of a parking ticket.
- The were found GUILTY of a violation, so the price to pay should be a proactive move to repair their damage AND make sure it does not happen further.
- It is difficult to assess the value of any donated computers or software. Software should be assessed by physical cost of the product. So donating a single program does not count as \$300, but the actual cost to the company, probably around \$20.

If Microsoft is to be properly penalized, one factor *should* be an educational donation. The order of money should be in the hundreds of millions (this is supposed to be a penalty, after all), and it should be a flat out cash payment. It should be left to the recipient of the money what to do with it, not the party being "penalized."

And why should the guilty party have any say in what their penalty is in the first place? If I think that speeding ticket is too much, do I have any choice? NO. The law dictates my punishment, and I'm bound to that. Just because Microsoft is the biggest player in the game, they are still a player, not the referee.

BOTTOM LINE: Microsoft needs to be PENALIZED for being found GUILTY.

And on a final note, the argument that breaking up Microsoft would have too big of an impact on the entire computer industry (and the economy) should be proof in itself that the company is a monopoly...

Sincerely,

Alex Melli
Laguna Beach, California

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